

50435-015
(P2145/AES)



AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

#4/a
RECEIVED
APR 26 1999
Group 2700

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: LI GONG, et al.)
Serial No.: 08/883,636)
Filing Date: June 26, 1997)
For: LAYER-INDEPENDENT SECURITY FOR)
COMMUNICATION CHANNELS)
Examiner: John J. Meyer
Art Unit: 2767

Hon. Assistant Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed December 10, 1998, please amend the above-referenced application as indicated hereinafter.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as indicated hereinafter:

Subj
At

1. 1. (Amended) A method for providing communication protocol-independent security for data transmitted between a first process, executing on a first network node, and a second process, executing on a second network node, wherein the first network node and the second network node each support at least one common communication protocol, the method comprising the steps of:
a) establishing a communication channel between the first network node and the second network node;